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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 24 Mar. 1952

25X1 SUBJECT Displacement of Families Inhabiting
the Yugoslav Frontier Area

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The area evacuated extended from Petrich to Vidin, to a depth of 35 kilometers. People who were considered a nuisance to the government were displaced from areas within 50 kilometers of the frontier.
2. Approximately 75,000 to 90,000 persons have been moved from the area. Persons selected for removal were:
 - a. Anti-Communists;
 - b. Non-Communists who had a certain amount of authority prior to the Communists regime;
 - c. Anti-collectivists; and
 - d. Those who already had a family member in exile.
3. Persons removed from the frontier were taken to southern Bulgaria and the Turkish frontier. Families were placed in villages where they were complete strangers. No restrictions were made on the type of accommodations available to them, and the majority lived in small rented houses. Moving from one house to another within the district was permitted, but a special permit was necessary to move to a different area; such permits were rarely granted. A majority of the displaced persons were employed on state farms or in state factories. No particular hardships were apparent; however, some who were without work were compelled to sell all their possessions or seek help from their more fortunate relatives in the interior.

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4. Reasons for the displacement of residents from the area along the Yugoslav frontier were:
 - a. To prevent agents infiltrated by the Yugoslav Government from successfully crossing into the interior;
 - b. To arrest with greater ease Bulgarians who might desert their country; and
 - c. To hinder the formation by the Yugoslavs of a fifth column beyond the frontier.

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